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UNH Researchers Available To Discuss Internet Safety Report

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January 14, 2009

DURHAM, N.H. – Researchers at the University of New Hampshire Crimes against Children Research Center are available to discuss today's report by the Internet Safety Technical Task Force, "Enhancing Child Safety and Online Technologies." The report, which was delivered to the nation's 52 attorneys general in December, will be made public and presented today at the State of the Net conference in Washington, D.C.

David Finkelhor, director of the UNH Crimes against Children Research Center and professor of sociology, can be reached at 603-862-2761 (w), 603-767-1010 (cell) and david.finkelhor@unh.edu. Kimberly Mitchell, research assistant professor of psychology, can be reached at 603-862-4533 and kimberly.mitchell@unh.edu. Janis Wolak, research assistant professor of sociology, can be reached at 603-862-4691 and janis.wolak@unh.edu.

Led by The Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard Law School, the task force includes a broad range of 29 leading Internet businesses, nonprofit organizations, academics, and technology companies -- including the UNH Crimes against Children Research Center -- that joined together for a year-long investigation of tools and technologies to create a safer environment on the Internet for youth. Many of the report's most important and controversial conclusions rely on UNH research.

Finkelhor, Mitchell and Janis Wolak with the UNH Crimes against Children Research Center are members of the task force's research advisory board and provided extensive research for the report on:

- Perpetrators of Internet crime
- Sexual solicitation and Internet-initiated offline encounters
- Online harassment and cyberbullying
- Exposure to pornography and violent content
- Child pornography
- Risk factors
- Genres of social media

The full final report is available at <http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/pubrelease/isttf/>.

The UNH Crimes against Children Research Center (CCRC) works to combat crimes against children by providing high-quality research and statistics to the public, policy makers, law enforcement personnel, and other child welfare practitioners. CCRC is concerned with research about the nature of crimes including child abduction, homicide, rape, assault, and physical and sexual abuse as well as their impact. Visit the center online at <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/index.html>.

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UNH is the state's flagship public institution, enrolling 11,800 undergraduate and 2,400 graduate students.

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